

Camp Grassfield Bayou Boeuf
March 29th 1863

Dear Mother

I recd your very kind letter of the 8th inst yesterday saying you had recd the checks we sent. we expected to have had some more to send before this time but we have not got our pay as we expected we probably will not get it untill the 1st of may we are getting out of money and stamps but we can get along without the money very well if we are well. and tobacco we can get traded for at the sutler untill pay day so if you will send me a few stamps I will try

and got along. I wrote you a letter
last week before we left Brashear
and Harrison told you one since
we got here. I suppose he wrote
you all about our leaving that
place we had a very good camp
ground up there but it is very
different here we are camped in
a sugar cane field. on the bank
of the Bayou it is an awful place
a half hours rain will make
it so bad that we can hardly get
through the mud. but when the
sun makes its appearance it soon
dries again. it is awful warm
here now in the middle of the
day but it is cool enough as soon
as the sun disappears. the mus-
quitoes there is no end to.

There has nothing transpired
here of any account since we
we came to this camp. Our men

met with quite a sad disaster
up Bayou Teche above Brashers
since we left there. the gun boat
Diana went up the Bayou in
search of the Lincen of the West
which the Reds took from us ~~at~~
near Dicksburg they passed up
~~past~~ by Pattersonville without
any trouble they did not
apprehend any danger untill
they in the midst of three Reb.
Batteries which were concealed
on the bank of the Bayou and
about 600 Infantry. which poured
forth an outrageous volley of
grape and canister into the
vessel most of them taking
effect ~~in~~ the channel being
so narrow that she could
not get away so ~~they~~ had
to stand and take it untill
they were disabled so that
they were compelled to run up

a white flag. after they had
done that the Williams fired three
volleys more at the doomed vessel
and crew. there was no compass
of the 161st N.Y. aboard of her they
were all taken prisoners with
the boats crew but two the pilot
and captains waiter who made
their escape by swimming ashore
our loss was eight killed nine
drowned and twenty wounded
the boat was of not little account
it being merely a Miss river flat
boat. We are now in Gen Butz's
Brigade we like him first rate. he is
not one of those "stuck up" officers
that our army is over run with who
care for nothing but the big pay
they get. he is a man that a
private can talk with as well as a
"shoulder strap man" his every
day dress is as plain as my own.
In looking over my post folio I see
that I am getting rather short
for writing material and I have
no way to get them and
I guess if you have it hardly you
may send me a dollar or two if
I had a dollar now I could get
my picture taken to send you
the boys from Gen are all well except
Dan and Jerry they are getting along
very well Will Davis we have not heard
from in six weeks the last we heard
he was a going to get his discharge
I have time to write no more give
my love to all and write soon
Yours J. H. Brown